

**REMARKS**

The present application was filed on November 21, 2003 with claims 1 through 27. Claims 1 through 27 are presently pending in the above-identified patent application. The present amendment proposes to amend claims 1 and 17 and to cancel claims 4, 15-16, 19-20 and 27, without prejudice. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to reintroduce the cancelled claims, as well as additional claims of varying scope, in a subsequent continuation application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, and 4-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lengyel (United States Patent No. 6,573,890) in view of Julien (United States Patent Number 6,556,207 B1).

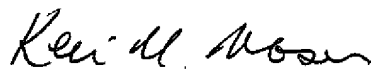
The Examiner indicated that claim 4-7, 10 and 20-26 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Claims 1 and 17 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claims 4 and 19-20, respectively. Thus, Applicants submit that claims 1 and 17 and the remaining dependent claims are allowable.

All of the pending claims, i.e., claims 1-3, 5-14, 17-18 and 21-26, are in condition for allowance and such favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

The Examiner's attention to this matter is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



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